

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed on April 29, 2005. Claims 1, 4, 13, 14 and 17-19 stand rejected. Claims 21-29 are allowed. Claims 7-12, 15, 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the identification of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 15 and intervening claim 14. Claim 1 is thus in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 2-13 and 16 depend from amended claim 1, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Claims 14, 15 and 17-20 are cancelled.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to correct the informalities objected to in paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

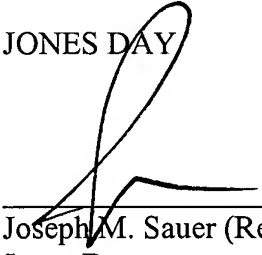
With regard to the objection to claim 21 as indefinite, as set forth in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. An example of the method recited in claim 21 is described with reference to Figure 7. The method step in claim 21 addressed in paragraph 3 of the Office Action corresponds to step 108 of the example embodiment set forth in Figure 7. As explained in the written description at page 13, "[i]f the current $SNR_z(q)$ is greater than the candidate $SNR_z(q')$ (step 106), then the current state q is set to the candidate state q' (step 108)." Similarly, in the method recited in claim 21, if the second signal-to-noise ratio is greater than the first signal-to-noise ratio, then the first scalar parameter value (e.g., the current state q) is set to

the second scalar parameter value (e.g., the candidate state q'). Applicant thus respectfully requests that the objection to claim 21 be withdrawn.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1-13, 16, and 21-29 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to enter this Amendment and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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